

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application 10/630,839

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith four sheets of formal replacement drawings.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined. Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-5 are allowed, and claims 9-11 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to Figures 6(a)-9 as not being labeled “prior art.” Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith four sheets of replacement formal drawings properly labeling Figures 6(a)-9, as requested by the Examiner.

Also, the Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title in a manner believed to overcome the objection. Applicant submits that the title should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

Finally, the Examiner has objected to claim 8 as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claim 8, without prejudice or disclaimer.

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II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,849 to Schick (“Schick”).

By this Amendment, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claims 9-11 into claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 6.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 6.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-5 are allowed, and claims 9-11 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Since Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claims 9-11 into claim 6, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are now in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant notes that minor amendments were made to claim 9, prior to incorporating claim 9 into claim 6, to correct antecedent basis errors. Such changes were not made in view of the prior art.

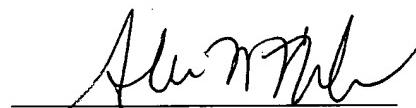
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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 16, 2005